

2004 Specialty Corn and Soybean Survey - Methodology

A stratified sample of 2,953 corn growers was selected from the USDA – NASS Illinois Field office list of farm operators. The stratification scheme was used to ensure accurate representation of different farm sizes in Illinois. The stratum groups were defined as follows:

	<u>Acres of Corn</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Sample Size</u>
Stratum 1 –	1 – 99	17,684	737,771	426
Stratum 2 –	100 – 249	9,884	1,648,408	622
Stratum 3 –	250 – 499	8,895	2,910,154	788
Stratum 4 –	500 – 999	5,065	3,365,797	746
Stratum 5 –	1,000 – 4,999	1,602	2,266,601	360
Stratum 6 –	5,000 +	15	128,171	11
Total		43,145	11,056,902	2,953

A questionnaire, cover letter, and return envelope were mailed to each farm that was selected for this survey. Those that did not respond by mail were contacted by telephone. A total of 1,981 questionnaires (67.1%) were completed by mail or phone. Of these 1,981 reports, some refused to cooperate with the survey, some were no longer farming, and some did not have the crops of interest. The final data set had 1,378 reports (46.7% of the sample) that were usable for the purposes of this survey.

Each questionnaire was manually reviewed, and corrections were made when necessary, before the data were keyed into computer files.

The data were then edited using a computer program. Edit parameters were developed to find problems of inconsistent data and to identify records for further review if they had extremely high or low values

The data were summarized to account for the stratified design and for non-response so that survey indications would accurately represent the entire state.